Language for establishing the importance of the topic

Establishing the importance of the topic

A **key element/factor/issue**
Play a **key/major/significant role** in
… is **essential/vital/crucial** for/to
… has become a **major/important/serious issue**
An **important/key/major factor** in
… is of **particular importance/concern/interest** for/to

Establishing the importance of the topic as a problem

There is **growing/increasing/widespread concern** about
… is a **major/significant/serious challenge** for
… is a **major/leading/frequent cause** of
There is an **immediate/urgent need** to
One of the **key/central/fundamental problems** facing/with/of

Establishing the importance of the topic for the discipline

This issue/topic has been **studied extensively/thoroughly/widely**
There is a **growing/increasing/considerable research interest** in
… has **attracted/led to/resulted** in a growing interest in
Research has **consistently/clearly/repeatedly shown** that
… has led to/caused **rapid/important/major developments** in the field
… has **received considerable/increasing/significant research attention**

Language for rationale and main aims

Identifying lack of research

There is a **general/complete/notable lack of** research on
There is a **relative/general/surprising paucity of** research
No/limited/insufficient data exists on
Few/no/only two studies have been conducted
Little/insufficient/scant attention has been paid **to**
… **has not been** tested/examined/studied
Although/even though/while some research has…, no studies have
There are still few/no studies focusing on/conducted in
This topic has **received little/limited/scant attention** in literature/from

researchers
Research concerning … **is still/somewhat/currently lacking.**
There has been **little/insufficient analysis of**

Identifying a lack of understanding

… is **poorly** understood
… is **not yet fully/well** understood
Mechanism/function/role **remains unclear/unknown/uncertain**
relatively/very/comparatively little is known about
There is **a strong/clear need to** understand/identify
The **evidence** for **… is insufficient/lacking/inconclusive**
More/further research is needed (in order) to determine/ascertain
There is still **some/considerable/much uncertainty** regarding/with regards to/concerning
The evidence/data **remains inconclusive.**

Linking research gap with the aim

Bearing this in mind, the aim of this study is to…
Taking this into account, it seems important to focus on…
As a result/Consequently, this study aims to
Therefore/Hence/Thus, it is important to focus on
Investigating this issue further/in more detail/qualitatively is important
There is thus/hence/therefore **a clear need to** further investigate
This **means/suggests/indicates that** studying
Given that the effects of the treatment are still not clear, this paper seeks to…

Presenting the aim of your research

Bearing this in mind, **the aim of this study is to…**
As a result/Consequently, **this study aims to…**
This paper attempts to show that
The purpose of this paper is to investigate
… aims to **investigate the effects/role/cause of…**
The aim is **to analyse the impact/effectiveness of…**
This study **provides an overview of/insight into…**

Indicating exclusion and inclusion criteria

Articles which … **were excluded from** the study
The exclusion/inclusion criteria were as following:
We decided not to **include papers which**…
In order to be included in the study, articles had to…
Those which did not **fulfil these criteria** were excluded.
… **was required for inclusion** in this study.
As a result, these papers **were deemed ineligible/not eligible**
Some **important/main criteria for inclusion** were…
Articles had to **meet the basic/specific/following criteria for** inclusion
… **meet eligibility/inclusion/selection criteria**

Language for research tools and procedures

Describing the purpose of a procedure

To narrow down the search …, we used the following
In order to increase the reliability of the search …, the articles were screened by
In an attempt to increase the reliability of the search …, the articles were screened by
The articles were screened by …, (**in order/an attempt**) to increase the reliability.

Describing the sequence of procedure steps: Followed by verb-ing

Prior to/Before us**ing** …, we …
After complet**ing** …, …
On/Upon completing …, …
When/While completing …, …

Describing the sequence of procedure steps: Followed by a sentence

Before the exclusion criteria were applied, …
After/Once/When the exclusion criteria were applied, …

Describing the sequence of procedure steps: Beginning of a sentence

First/Second/Third, the following search terms were used.
Firstly/Secondly/Thirdly, the following search terms were used.
Finally/Lastly, the following search terms were used.
Meanwhile/During this stage, the following search terms were used.
Afterwards/Then, the following search terms were used.

Data analysis techniques useful language

Presenting data analysis techniques: Nouns

Conduct/perform a statistical/quantitative **analysis**
Calculate/compute a **correlation**
Data was collected/stored/analysed
Method was used/employed/developed
Parameters were specified/measured/defined
Predictors were simulated/included/estimated
Linear/logistic/multiple **regression** was tested/performed/conducted
Test was conducted/performed/carried out
Variables were included/defined/measured

Presenting data analysis techniques: Verbs

the data/samples/results were **analysed** using
the rate/value/amount was **calculated**
the test/analysis was **carried out**
the data/variable/response was **coded**
the test/analysis was **conducted**
method/technique/strategy was **employed** to analyse…
the calculations/tests were **executed**
the levels/values/data were **normalised**
we **performed** a X test/analysis

Justifying data analysis techniques

It has been **used extensively** by other researchers.
This approach is **recommended** by…
…is **appropriate** as/since/due to…
…has several important **benefits/strengths**.

Presenting findings

Literature review

1 Emphasising the researcher

Yang (2011) **showed/demonstrated** that
Gonzalez (2020) **observed/found** that
Liu (2019) **examined/investigated** the issue of
Kanagarajah (2015) **carried out/conducted** research/a study on
Al Biruni (2013) **analysed** the data from/**reviewed** 20 studies

2 Emphasising the time

Most recently, Yang (2011) showed
In 2020/1995 Gonzalez (2020) observed
In the early 90s/00s Al Biruni (2002) analysed
Almost twenty years/a decade ago, Liu (2010) concluded that
Following these first studies, it was established that

3 Emphasising the topic

In order to **better/fully/further understand** the effects of …, Liu (2019) examined
… was the **central/main focus** of Vu's (2018) work
To determine/establish the …, Gonzalez (2013)
… was **first reported/observed/shown** (in a study) by …
… was **initially studied/investigated** by…

4 Emphasising the investigation

In a **recent/subsequent/classic** study by Jakielski et al,
A **recent systematic metanalysis/literature review** of over 50 studies showed that
In a **recent/detailed analysis** of …, Wang (2019) demonstrated that

5 Highlighting what a researcher did in their study

Martinez (2019) **studied** the effect/impact role of…
Martinez (2019) **investigated** the issue/effects/role of
Martinez (2019) **analysed** the data/results/performance
Martinez (2019) **aimed** to provide/create/improve
Martinez (2019) **examined** the issues/role/impact
Martinez (2019) **questioned** the validity of/assumptions behind
Martinez (2019) **challenged** the assumptions/ideas/validity
Martinez (2019) **discussed** the issues/problems/importance

6 Highlighting what a researcher did in their study: Relative clauses

Yang (2011), who studied this issue in Vietnam, concludes that…
Yang (2011) was the first researcher **who/that** addressed this problem
In a study **which/that** investigated this issue in Vietnam Yang (2011) concluded that
In a study investigating this issue in Vietnam Yang (2011) concluded that

7 Presenting researcher's position

According to Zhang (2018), …
Zhang (2018) **argues** that/for a
Patel (2015) **claims** that
Da Silva (2020) **suggests** that/a
Basu (2010) **proposes** a
As **observed/noted** by Liang (2019),
As Liang (2019) **observes/points out**,

Referring to tables and figures

The results **are shown/illustrated/presented** in Fig. 4.
Fig. 2 **shows/illustrates/presents** the expected…
Thus, **as indicated** in Figure 1, a controlled…
…**is displayed** in Table 2.
The results of … **are presented/shown** in Table 1.
…confirmed the presence of β-sheet structures (**Figure 1a**).
…**are summarised/given/listed** in Table 2.
As shown/illustrated/indicated in Table 3, …
As can be seen/observed/noted in Figure 4, …

Reporting positive results

There was a **significant** positive/negative correlation between…
There was a **significant** difference between…
The **analysis**/test revealed/showed/indicated/demonstrated that…
…was shown to be higher/lower/larger than…
A positive **correlation** was found/observed.
The **difference between** … was (found to be) **significant**.

Reporting negative results

No evidence (for X/to support X) was **found**
There was **no significant correlation** between the two variables.
No significant correlation between… **was/could be observed/found**
No difference between/effect of/change in/increase in … was found/observed/detected
None of these differences/effects were **statistically significant**.
The test/analysis **did not show/reveal/indicate/demonstrate**…
…was **not/could not be identified**.
We/the test **found no significant differences between/effects of/changes in**…

Using fractions

Two thirds of participants reported…
One out of/in three were found to…
Nine in/out of ten samples exhibited a…
This was observed in **one/a tenth** of patients

Using percentages

One out of/in three (**33%**) were found to…
Thirty-three/33 per cent reported…
This was observed in **10 per cent** of the…
A **small/large/high percentage** of participants showed…

Using approximations

Approximately one in three (29%) participants…
Just/slightly under a tenth (9%) showed…
Just/slightly over a tenth (11%) showed…
Practically/virtually/almost all (95%) tests indicated

Comparing results with literature (similarities)

This study **confirms** that/the results of
This finding/result is **consistent/in line/in agreement** with that of

… **broadly/further supports** the results obtained by
These results **reflect/match** those of
This study corroborates the results/findings
Similarly, to the study/research conducted by
There are some/certain/**important** similarities between
Likewise, this study also shows/demonstrates/confirms
This study **gives further support** to the idea/theory/hypothesis that

Comparing results with literature (differences)

Contrary/In contrast to earlier findings/the results obtained by,
These results **differ significantly/slightly/somewhat from** those by
This **challenges** the idea that/validity of/assumptions
These results **put into question** the notion/idea that/the validity of
Our findings are **quite/somewhat/significantly different from** those
One **important/major/notable** difference between
However/Nevertheless/On the other hand, this study shows that
… were higher/lower **compared/in comparison with** Smith's findings.
… were **not confirmed** by this study.
This was **not shown/observed/demonstrated** in our study.

Explaining the difference between your results and previous studies

This inconsistency may/could/might have been **caused by** and error in
… might/may/could have **affected/had an impact** on the observed level of
… might/may/could have **resulted in/led to/caused** these discrepancies.
One possible/likely/potential **reason** for this discrepancy is/could be…
The observed difference might have been caused by…
This difference is **likely/possibly/potentially** due to…
The **difference/discrepancy** between our results and those of previous studies could…
A probable/likely/potential **cause** of these discrepancies is…

Explaining your results

Another/One/A possible/likely/plausible **explanation** for this result might be
These findings might/may/could be **explained by** (the fact that)

This might/may/could be **due to** (the fact that)
… might/may/could be **attributed to** (the fact that)
This might/may/could **explain** why/the
It is likely/possible/probable that these findings
The findings **are likely** to be due/related to
These results could be explained several ways.

Interpreting your results

These findings **suggest/imply/indicate** that…
This might mean that…
These results could be **interpreted** in several ways.

Being cautious when explaining and interpreting the findings

Adverbs and adjectives
Some (patients)
One (explanation)
Sometimes/often/frequently
It is **possible/likely/probable** that
X is likely to
Virtually/practically (all)
Potentially/possibly (harmful)

Verbs
Suggest that
Indicate that
Seem to
Tend to
Appear to

Modal verbs
Might
May
Can
Could

One **possible/likely/plausible** explanation for this result **might** be
These findings **might/may/could** be explained by (the fact that)
It is likely/possible/probable that these findings
The findings **are likely** to be due/related to

Concluding the paper

Restating the main topic

This thesis **focused** on/concerned itself with…
The **main premise** of this thesis was that…
The **key issue** this thesis investigated was…

Highlighting the main contribution

This study **might** provide new/valuable/important insights into…
Our research **can** make a significant/important/positive contribution to…
One important/major/significant contribution this study **offers/makes** is
These results **might** contribute in several ways to our understanding of
Most notably, this research **could** show that…
These findings **could pave** the way for…
This will be the **first** study to ever establish…
These results will be one of the first to clearly show…
Before this study, there was little research on…
This study will use a **novel approach**, which can…

Suggesting practical implications of the findings

These results **suggest**/indicate/imply that
There are several practical/therapeutic/physiological **implications** of this study for…
One **potential/possible/practical implication** of … is
These findings **may help** better understand the
There are **important implications** for practitioners/policy makers
These results raise **important/further/interesting** questions for
Based on/Bearing in mind these findings, it can be assumed that
These findings suggest that … **might** be possible.
This **may enable/help/allow** (practitioners/doctors) to …

Highlighting limitations of your study

One major/serious/potential limitation of this study is…
In this study it was **not possible** to…
A major/serious/potential **problem** with our approach/participant selection…
This/Our study **suffers from** some limitations/drawbacks/weaknesses

We **did not** (unfortunately) **attempt/seek** to
The selection criteria might have led to **biased results**
This study is **limited** by the absence/lack of
We **did not control** for
One source of weakness/limitations in this study is
…may have **introduce a measurement**/sampling error.

Highlighting limitations while justifying your approach

While/Even though/Although this study did not …, we were able to …
In spite of/Despite these limitations, this study is …
Having said this, we did manage to…
Nevertheless, this study offers some important contributions to

Making suggestions for future studies

It is recommended/suggested that future studies focus on…
We therefore/hence/thus **suggest/recommend** that other studies attempt to…
Further research/work/studies are required to…
These limitations could be **addressed** by future research.
Hence, **further/more/additional research is needed** to confirm whether…
It would be **useful/interesting/helpful** to further investigate/explore/analyse
One (important) area future research could/should focus on is…
Studies using/investigating … are **recommended**/suggested.